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B. H. Hilliard

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventor: Masaki NAKAGAWA et al. Group Art Unit: 2173
Appln. No.: 09/400,305 Examiner: C. H. Nguyen
Filed: September 21, 1999
For: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING DISPLAYED CONTENTS ON A
DISPLAY DEVICE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 03 2003
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 3, 2002, the Applicants hereby petition for a three month extension of time and request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 4 and 7.

Non-elected claims 1-3 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected, under 35 USC §102, as being anticipated by Nielsen et al. (US 5,845,122). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Nielsen discloses that the visual appearances of radio buttons in a selected radio button set are changed in response to an object-selecting action (col. 6, lines 17-19). The visual appearances of the radio buttons in the selected radio button set

are changed a second time in response to an option-selecting action (col. 6, lines 19-22).

When a user positions a position indicator 312 over radio button 302 and presses a mouse button, radio button 302 becomes a selected radio button and the visual appearances of radio buttons 302, 304, and 306 change to the states shown in Fig. 4 (col. 6, lines 40-44). Specifically, radio button 302 is displayed in an excited state (i.e., happy face) and radio buttons 304 and 306 are displayed in a disappointed state (i.e., sad face) (col. 6, lines 44-46). If the user then releases the mouse button while position indicator 312 is over radio button 302, the visual appearances of radio buttons 302, 304, and 306 change back to selected, unselected, and unselected display states, respectively (col. 6, lines 46-50).

In a conventional graphical user interface (GUI), such as that taught by Nielsen, once an item on the display screen has been selected, it remains selected until another item is selected. For example, suppose that a user has unintentionally selected an undesired item by clicking the mouse button when the mouse is positioned to have a display cursor point to the undesired item. The desired item cannot be selected thereafter by simply moving the mouse to a position where the display cursor points to the desired item. Instead, the user must position the

mouse to have the display cursor point to the desired item and then click the mouse button to select the desired item.

By contrast to the conventional GUI, the Applicants' claimed method changes the selected one of a plurality of selective radio buttons simply by changing the position of the calling point. Applicants submit that it has not been previously known to provide visual feedback information on a display screen as a calling point is moved from a position corresponding to a first selected radio button to a position corresponding to a second selected radio button.

In accordance with the discussion provided above, Applicants submit that Nielsen fails to disclose all of the features of claim 5. Therefore, allowance of claim 5 and dependent claim 6 is warranted.

Moreover, the subject matter recited by claim 6 provides an independent basis for its allowance.

As discussed above, Nielsen discloses that a radio button is selected by positioning position indicator 312 over a radio button and pressing a mouse button (col. 6, lines 40-44). The position over the radio button is a region associated with the radio button. Nielsen is silent as to what would occur if the mouse button were pressed while position indicator 312 was

positioned outside the region associated with a radio button.
claim 6 addresses this situation.

Based on Nielsen's silence regarding the features recited by claim 6, Applicants submit that Nielsen does not disclose the claimed features and, thereby, does not anticipate the claim. Therefore, allowance of claim 6 is warranted for this independent reason.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 31, 2002
JEL/DWW/att

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